

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Participant Information and Regulations

PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Interpretation of the following information and regulations is at the discretion of the City of Gaithersburg

CITY CONTACT

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PARADE DATE, LOCATION, HOURS:

Saturday, March 12, 2022

rio

Parade Start Time: 10 a.m.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The ever-popular City of Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to the streets of rio on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at 10 a.m. Now in its 20th year, this rain or shine event includes Celtic dancers, equestrian units, clowns, bagpipe bands, an assortment of community groups, and more.

APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION

The City welcomes community groups and other organizations to march in the parade. It's a great way to be involved in the community and to get your group or business noticed.

PARADE POLICY FOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates and/or their representatives are welcome to participate in the parade. Candidates may meet and greet but are not permitted to use amplifiers, speak from the Viewing Stand, or impede the parade's progress. Candidates and/or their representatives may not post campaign signs or attach stickers to any public property or signage.

PARTICIPANT REGULATIONS

All parade participants must comply with Resolution R-73-05 of the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council and with the following Parade Rules and Regulations. Note that participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade by groups or organizations other than City of Gaithersburg officials, departments or committees does not constitute City of Gaithersburg endorsement.

IMPORTANT: Due to health concerns related to the pandemic, participants are not allowed to hand out any items at this year's parade.

1. Forward motion of a parade unit must be maintained at all times. All performances must be conducted while moving forward to prevent large gaps from appearing in the parade.
2. Participants may NOT stop to perform at the Viewing Stand without prior approval from the City of Gaithersburg.
3. All units MUST be visually interesting (colorful and lively).
4. SMOKING OR VAPING ON CITY PROPERTY AND DURING CITY-SPONSORED EVENTS IS PROHIBITED.
5. Prohibited Vehicles: (1) 14 wheelers and over, (2) mobile billboards, (3) box trucks and trailers
6. Participants agree to arrive at the times and locations designated in their participant documents, provided by e-mail prior to the parade. Registered participants agree to notify parade organizers in advance if they are no longer able to participate.
7. No food items or drinks may be sold by any vendor except for approved food vendors pre-authorized by rio and the Montgomery County Health Department.
8. Prohibited items include alcoholic beverages, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, and weapons (real or facsimile).
9. City staff members reserve the right to require participants to remove unacceptable or inappropriate items, and may relocate or remove any participant who does not comply with the parade regulations, is uncooperative with event staff, or is disruptive to the parade. Disruption is defined as disturbing other participants, interfering with event programming, behaving aggressively toward event attendees or staff, damaging property, or engaging in behavior that threatens the safety of others.
10. City staff members reserve the right to deem ineligible for participation in future events any vendor who does not comply with the parade regulations, is uncooperative with event staff, or is disruptive to the parade.

ANIMALS IN THE PARADE

1. Horses, dogs or any other wild or domestic animals may not be brought to or included in the parade without the prior written approval of the City of Gaithersburg. City Code Sec. 15A prohibits the riding of horses without the permission of the City Manager/designee.
2. Animals in the parade must be listed on the parade entry application, have up-to-date vaccinations, be in good medical health, and be able to cope with crowds, loud noises, balloons, flags, sudden movements, and other animals.
3. All animal units must comply with City, State and Federal ordinances and/or laws, including but not limited to City Code Chapters 4 and 15A. A valid Rabies certificate, other vaccinations applicable to a type of animal, and licenses must be available for inspection at the parade upon request by City staff and/or Animal Control or Police Officers.
4. **All** pets must be under a handler's control at ALL times. No unsafe animals will be permitted.
5. Only animals under the strict leash or bridle of a qualified animal handler will be permitted in the parade. The identified animal handler and his/her parade unit sponsor will bear full responsibility for any and all damages and injuries resulting from negligence or act of God incidents involving the animal in question.
6. No aggressive animals or females that are in season are permitted.
7. Entries with animals must have designated "waste pick-up people" or "pooper scoopers" following closely behind, with appropriate clean-up equipment including a shovel and bucket/wagon to collect waste from all animals on the street. Entries without this designated person will not be allowed to participate in the parade. Violators of this rule will be removed from the parade and may be fined.
8. A certificate of general liability with a minimum of \$1,000,000 covering any bodily injury and property damage caused by the animals in the parade may be required.

HORSES: In addition to the Animal requirements listed above, the following applies specifically to horses in the parade. Anyone wishing to ride a horse in the parade must be affiliated with a recognized riding group or academy and that parade unit must provide an identifying banner. Horse entries must be "people- and crowd-experienced" and safe for all concerned. **NO STALLIONS. The City of Gaithersburg reserves the right to remove any horse from the parade, or prior to parade line-up, that appears to be unable to remain calm throughout the event.** A certificate of insurance naming the City as an insured party may also be required. All horses must be properly trimmed and shod. All riders in an equestrian unit must be 18 years or older. All riders must wear a riding helmet. Horse trailers are not allowed in the parade; a special area will be designated for them.

RAIN/CANCELLATION

This is an outdoor, light RAIN or SHINE event. You are responsible for securing your property in the event of rain or wind. If the City cancels the event due to public safety concerns such as severe weather conditions, it will not be rescheduled.

PARKING

Parking is in designated areas only. Information specific to your unit will be provided with the participant documents via email prior to the parade.

PHOTOS

Photographs submitted with application may be used to promote the parade. Please note that photos and video taken during the event may be used by the City in future promotional materials.